

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002023  
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 /021 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:JCPRICE:MAF  
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:DJYELLMAN  
L/OES - M. HOINKES  
USCG - A. BLANTON  
ARA/CAR - R. SUBER

-----076077 051654Z /47

P 051555Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TD

SUBJECT: REGISTRY STATUS FOR M/V MT. VERNON

1. ON DECEMBER 30 COAST GUARD SEIZED M/V DONNA PETRA 60 MILES S.E. OF MIAMI FOR DRUG VIOLATION. CLAIM OF PANAMANIAN REGISTRY WAS NOT CONFIRMED UPON BOARDING AND INSPECTION AND DONNA PETRA WAS SEIZED AS STATELESS VESSEL. SUBSEQUENTLY, EVIDENCE WAS FOUND THAT FORMER NAME OF VESSEL WAS MT. VERNON, REGISTERED IN THE US OUT OF HOUSTON.

2. FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT IN SEPTEMBER, 1977 US MARITIME ADMINISTRATION (MARAD) HAD AUTHORIZED SALE OF M/V MT. VERNON TO ONE JOHN A. LANCER, A CITIZEN OF TRINIDAD, AND A TRANSFER TO TRINIDADIAN FLAG AND REGISTRY.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE TRINIDADIAN OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT ACTUAL  
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TRANSFER TO TRINIDADIAN FLAG AND REGISTRY WAS EFFECTED AFTER SEPTEMBER AUTHORIZATION FROM MARAD. IF SUCH A TRANSFER WAS NOT CONSUMATED, M/V MT. VERNON WOULD REMAIN US VESSEL. IN ADDITION, EVIDENCE EXISTS OF ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER VESSEL TO THIRD COUNTRY OWNERSHIP. IF MARAD AUTHORIZED TRANSFER TO TRINIDAD WAS NOT CONSUMATED, EFFORT TO TRANSFER VESSEL TO A THIRD COUNTRY WOULD ITSELF BE VIOLATION OF US LAW,

WARRANTING SEIZURE AND FORFITURE OF VESSEL. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP REGISTRY, SHIP DETENTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE002023  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JCPRICE:MAF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780008-0864  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 28cb8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3823275  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REGISTRY STATUS FOR M/V MT. VERNON  
**TAGS:** SNAR, TD  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014